

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2542

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1876

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT, RO

SUBJECT: TRADE AGREEMENT

REF: BUCHAREST 1790

1. DEP FORN MIN GLIGA CALLED ME TO MFA LATE YESTERDAY (APRIL 29) TO CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT OF CURRENT RATE OF EMIGRATION (REFTEL). HE OPENED CONVERSATION BY REFERRING TO DEPARTMENT'S SUMMONS TO BOGDAN (WE STILL DON'T HAVE ANY REPORT ON THIS MEETING) FOLLOWING CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR JACKSON (STATE 095754) AS WELL AS RECENT REPORTS FROM BOGDAN ON MEETINGS HE HAS HAD WITH VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES INCLUDING SENATOR JACKSON. HE THEN SAID THAT DESPITE FACT IT IS NOT GOR PRACTICE TO REVEAL EMIGRATION STATISTICS, IN PRESENT SITUATION HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO PROVIDE ME WITH LATEST FIGURES. PULLING FROM HIS POCKET A TINY SLIP OF PAPER HE PROCEEDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS: FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 26 THE GOR HAS APPROVED THE APPLICATIONS OF 608 JEWS FOR EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. DURING THE SAME PERIOD THE GOR HAS APPROVED THE APPLICATIONS OF 330 OTHER PERSONS SOME OF WHOM ARE JEWS FOR EMIGRATION TO "OTHER COUNTRIES", EXCLUDING THE FRG (A SEPARATE SET OF BOOKS APPARENTLY IS KEPT ON GERMAN MINORITY EMIGRATION).

2. GLIGA NOTED FURTHER THAT THE PASSPORT COMMISSION WAS CONTINUING ITS WORK AND HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO WORK PARTICULARLY RAPIDLY ON APPLICATIONS FOR DEPARTURES TO ISRAEL AND THE U.S.

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3. I ASKED IF ALL THE APPROVED APPLICANTS HAD BEEN ADVISED OF

THE APPROVALS AND HE SAID YES. I THEN ASKED IF THE 330 FIGURE INCLUDED PERSONS INTENDING TO EMIGRATE TO THE U.S. AND IF SO, HOW MANY. GLIGA REPLIED IT DID, BUT THAT HE FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE SECOND PART OF MY QUESTION. HE SAID HE WOULD TRY TO FIND OUT.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO HOW RAPIDLY THESE APPROVALS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN ACTUAL PASSPORT ISSUANCES STATISTICS GLIGA REVERTED TO THE EXPLANATION HE HAD GIVEN LAST WEEK ABOUT VARIOUS BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES INTENDING EMIGRANTS HAD TO SURMOUNT AS WELL AS EACH INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL PLANS. HE SAID IN SOME INSTANCES A MONTH PROBABLY WAS SUFFICIENT, IN OTHER CASES PERHAPS TWO MONTHS MIGHT BE REQUIRED.

5. AFTER EXPRESSING MY APPRECIATION FOR THE GOR'S GESTURE IN MAKING THESE STATISTICS AVAILABLE (WHICH I REPEATED I THOUGHT WAS AS MUCH IN ITS INTEREST AS OUR'S), I TOOK THE OCCASION TO LAY OUT AGAIN IN THE CLEAREST POSSIBLE TERMS THE REASONS WHY IT WAS IMPERATIVE FOR GOR PERFORMANCE TO SHOW MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IN EMIGRATION FLOWS BOTH TO ISRAEL AND THE U.S., CITING AMONG OTHER POINTS SENATOR JACKSON'S RECENT COMMENTS

I NOTED I WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY CONTINUING REPORTS FROM OUR CONSUL OF DIFFICULTIES APPLICANTS FOR EMIGRATION TO THE U.S. WERE HAVING WITH VARIOUS MILITIA OFFICES AROUND THE COUNTRY WHEN THEY TRIED TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS. GLIGA ADMITTED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE SUCH OCCURRENCES HAD HAPPENED IN THE PAST, BUT SAID HE THOUGHT THIS HAD BEEN STRAIGHTENED OUT. I REPLIED OUR INFORMATION WAS TO THE CONTRARY. GLIGA RESPONDED HE WOULD AGAIN RAISE THIS MATTER AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN AN EFFORT TO MAKE SURE THE MESSAGE GOT ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE WORKING LEVEL IN THE PROVINCES. I SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT HE ARRANGE FOR THE HEAD OF THE CONSULAR DIRECTORATE TO GIVE OUR CONSUL A STATUS REPORT BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK ON THE SPECIFIC CASES WE HAD EARLIER CALLED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ATTENTION.

6. IN ENDING THIS PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION I ASKED IF THE STATISTICS GLIGA HAD PROVIDED SHOULD REMAIN ONLY WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OR WHETHER THEY COULD BE SHARED WITH OTHER APPRO-CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIVATE INTERESTED PARTIES. HE SAID HE WOULD LEAVE IT TO OUR DISCRETION, BUT ASKED THAT WE BE SURE NOTHING COMES OUT IN PUBLIC ON SPECIFIC NUMBERS.

7. COMMENT: GLIGA'S TOTAL FIGURES REPRESENT AN ACCELERATION OF APPROVALS OVER MACOVESCU'S 500, BUT THE CRUX OF THE MATTER STILL REMAINS VISIBLE ENOUGH SIGNS OF THESE APPROVALS. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF ANY SUCH SIGNS THAT REACH

WASHINGTON THROUGH JEWISH SOURCES. I WILL ATTEMPT TO HAVE
ANOTHER CONVERSATION WITH MACOVESCU/GLIGA BEFORE I DEPART ON LEAVE
MAY 11. IN THE MEANTIME, IF DEPARTMENT SATISFIED THAT WE HAVE
IRON-CLAD ENOUGH ASSURANCES ABOUT PUBLIC DISCLOSURES FROM
SENATORS JACKSON, RIBICOFF, JAVITS, AND CONGRESSMAN VANIK, I
SUGGEST THEY BE INFORMED OF GLIGA'S DATA.
BARNES

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